

Message Text

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INFO USMISSION GENEVA

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 232001

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB ILO IS

SUBJECT: ILO EXPERT UPSAL CANCELS VISIT TO ISRAEL

1. ACCORDING TO ISRAELI LABOR ATTACHE IN WASHINGTON GIL SHAAL, ILO EXPERT PROFESSOR UPSAL (NORWEGIAN NATIONAL) HAS CANCELLED HIS SCHEDULED MISSION TO ISRAEL TO INVESTIGATE LABOR CONDITIONS IN THE OCCUPIED AREAS ON BEHALF OF ILO DIRECTOR GENERAL BLANCHARD.

2. REPORTEDLY PROFESSOR UPSAL HAD COMPLAINED AT THE LAST MOMENT THAT ISRAELI PUBLICITY ABOUT HIS IMPENDING VISIT HAD MADE HIS TASK TOO DIFFICULT AND HAD UNDULY AROUSED ARAB HOSTILITY. ARAB MISSIONS IN GENEVA HAD ALLEGEDLY COMPLAINED TO BLANCHARD THAT THEY SHOULD HAVE BEEN CONSULTED IN ADVANCE ABOUT THE MISSION TO ASSURE THAT UPSAL WOULD SEE THE RIGHT PEOPLE AND THAT HIS REPORT WOULD NOT BECOME A MERE "WHITE WASH JOB".

3. SHAAL INDICATED THAT THE ORIGINAL GAME PLAN HAD BEEN THAT UPSAL'S REPORT WAS TO HAVE BEEN SUBMITTED TO THE
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NOVEMBER 5 ILO GOVERNING BODY MEETING FOR DISPOSAL. NOW

THE CANCELLATION OF THE VISIT AND THE QUESTION OF ISRAELI
LABOR POLICY IN THE OCCUPIED AREAS WOULD AGAIN BECOME A

MAJOR ISSUE OF CONTENTION. HE THOUGHT THAT THIS WOULD BE
ALL RIGHT WITH HIS GOVERNMENT WHICH NOW FELT NO LONGER ANY
OBLIGATION TO PERMIT THE ILO TO INVESTIGATE THIS ISSUE.

4. COMMENT: ARAB COUNTRIES, AWARE OF THE U.S. INTEREST
IN THE HANDLING OF THE UPSAL REPORT AND ITS POTENTIAL
LINKAGE WITH OUR ULTIMATE DECISION WHETHER TO RETAIN OR
QUIT ILO MEMBERSHIP, APPEAR TO HAVE DECIDED THAT PRESSURE
ON UPSAL TO CANCEL THE MISSION WOULD BETTER SERVE THEIR
PURPOSE THAN CHALLENGING WHAT WOULD LIKELY HAVE BECOME A
GENERALLY FAVORABLE REPORT. ROBINSON

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